



Explore Lab 37

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Parched Paradise



“It would appear that the first conquerors wished the beautiful valley of Tenochtitlan to resemble the Castilian soil, [...] dry and destitute of vegetation”

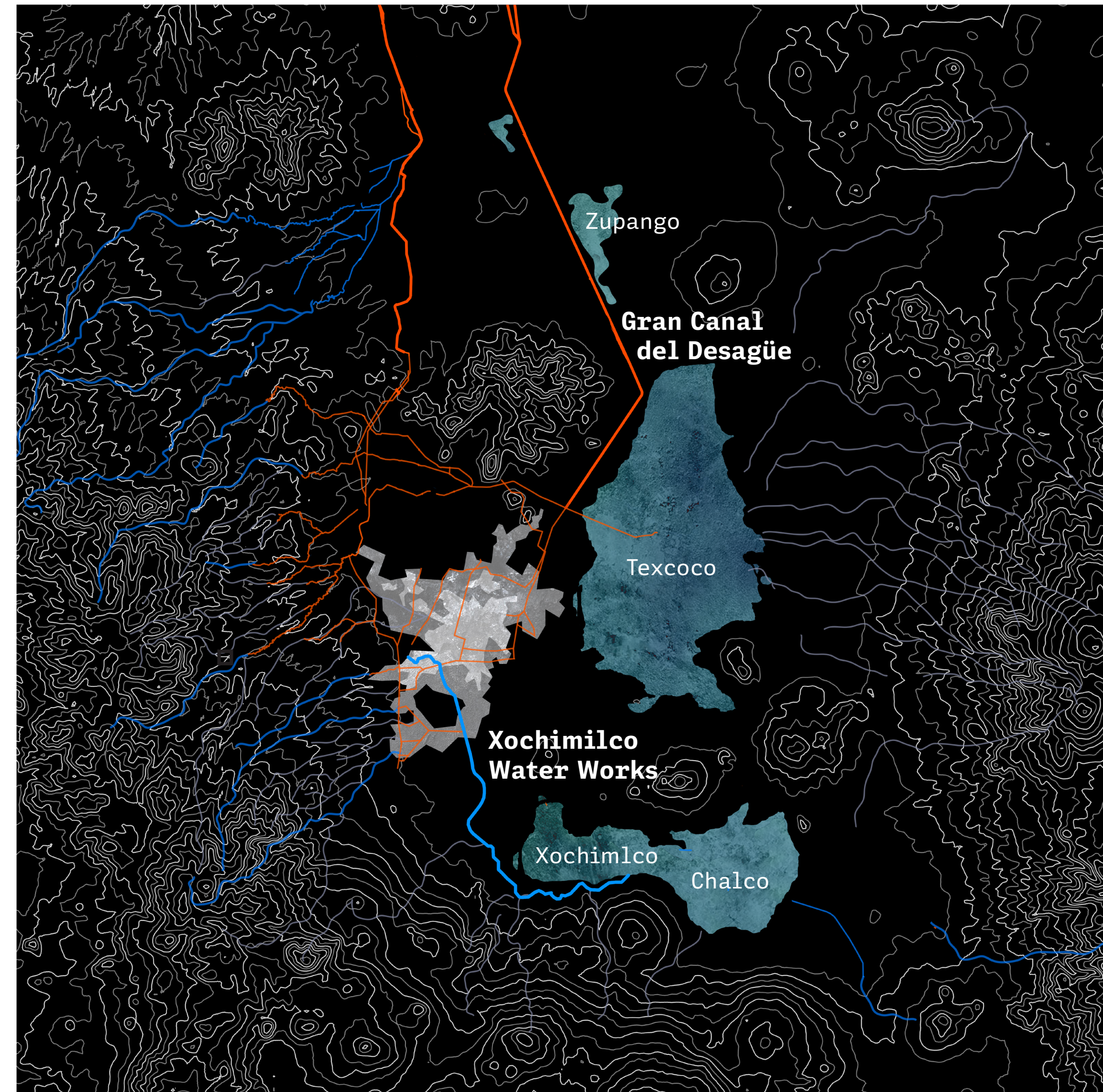
(Humboldt, 1811)



The Valley of Mexico from the Santa Isabel Mountain Range,
José María Velasco, 1875

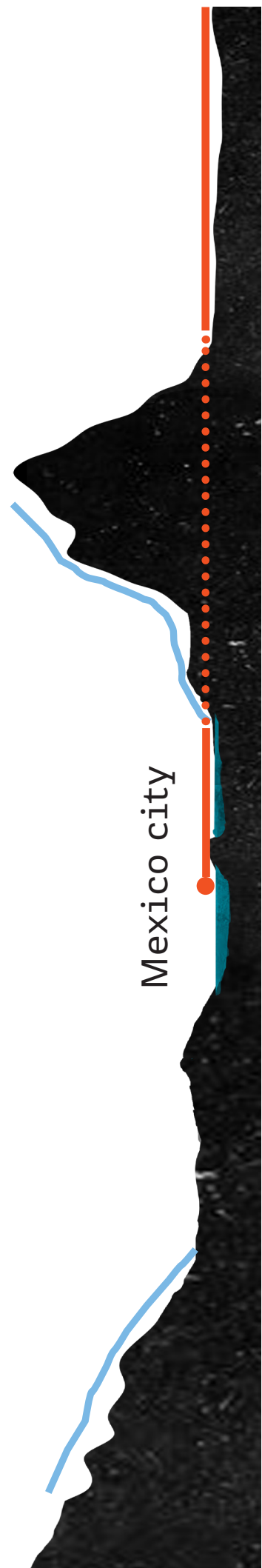
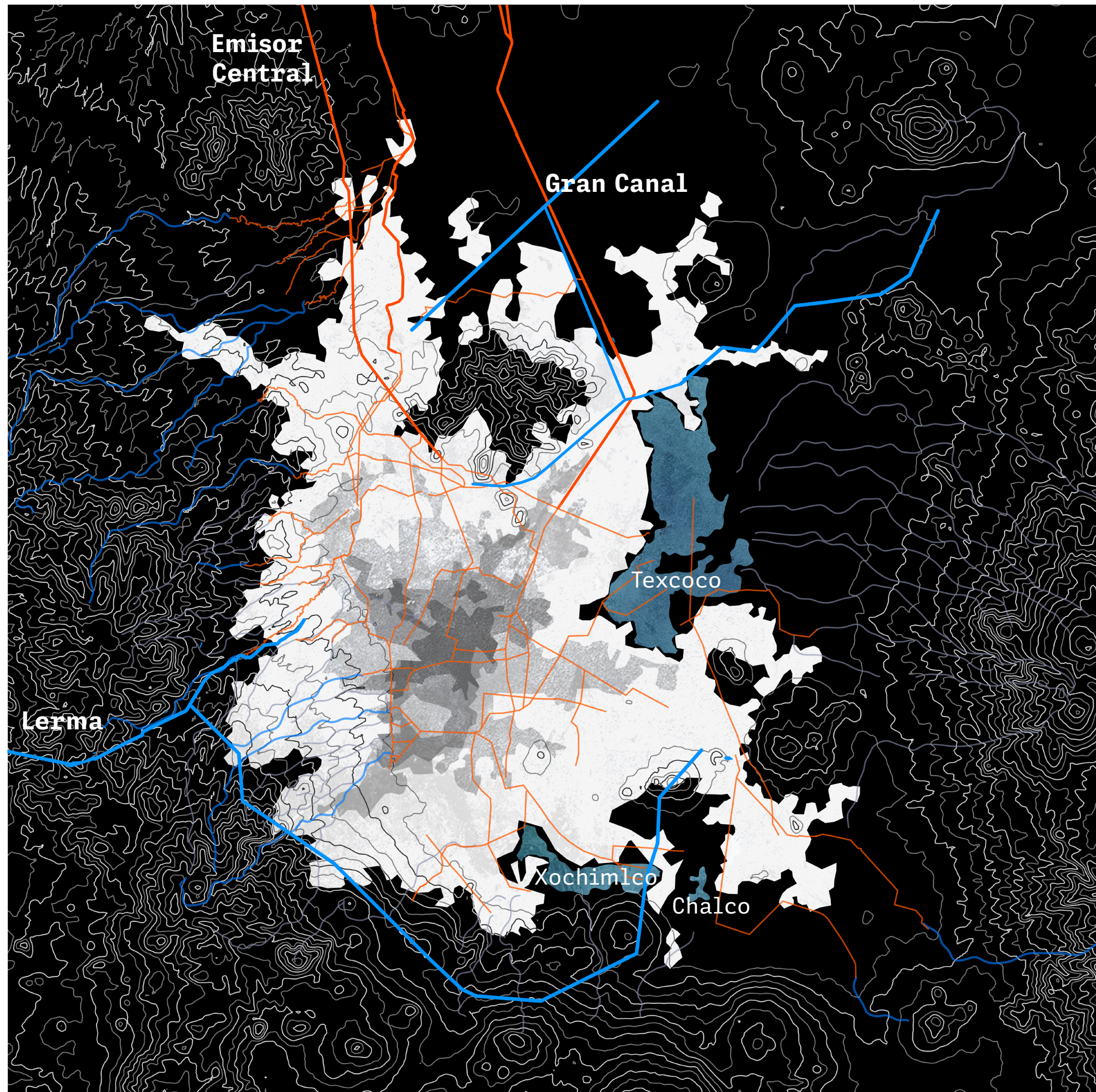
Revolutionary Waters

1900-1940



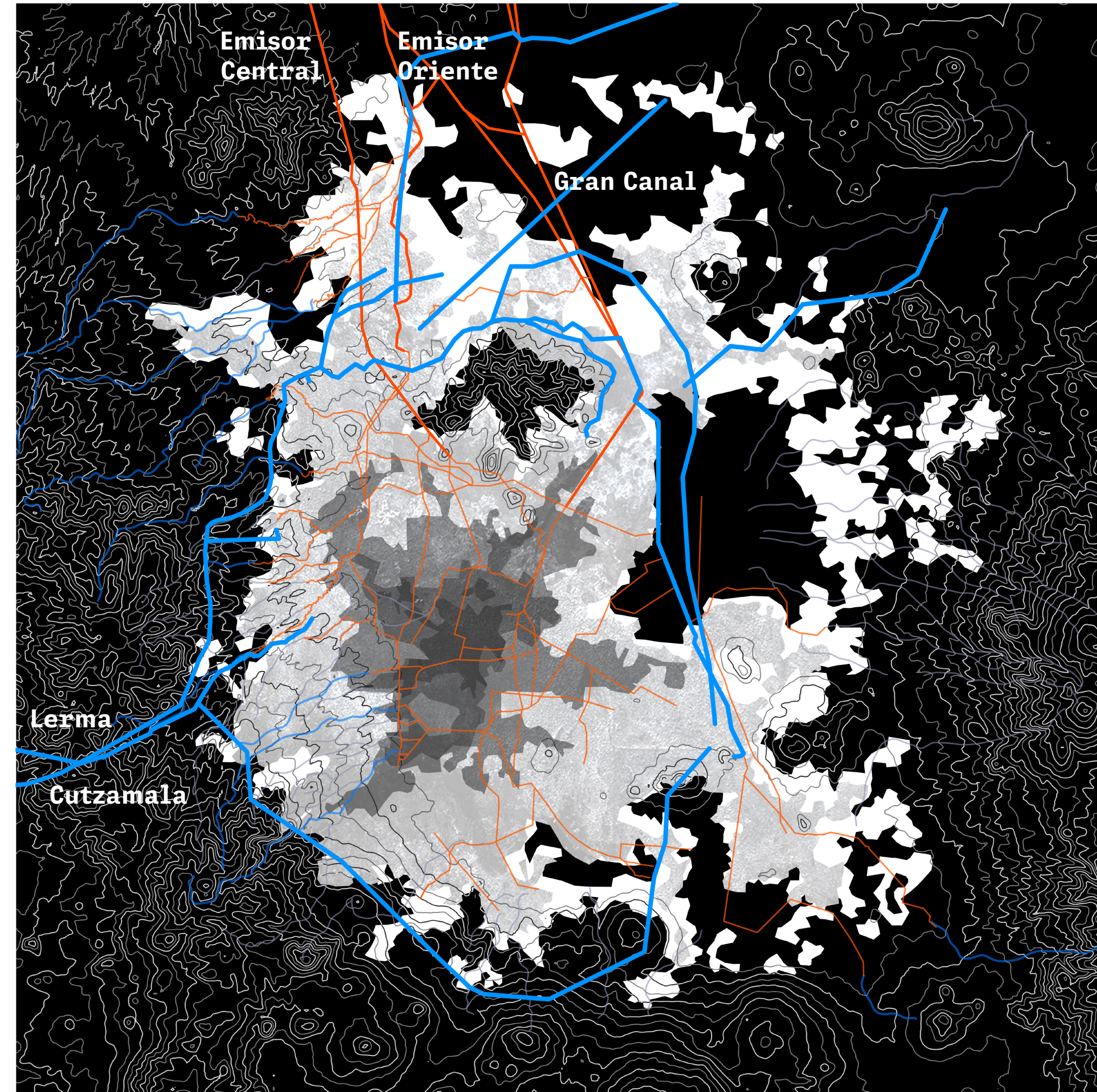
Hegemonic Waters

1940-1990



Neoliberal Waters

1980-present



The Promise of Modern Water

Water abstracted into a **universal resource**

Universal access

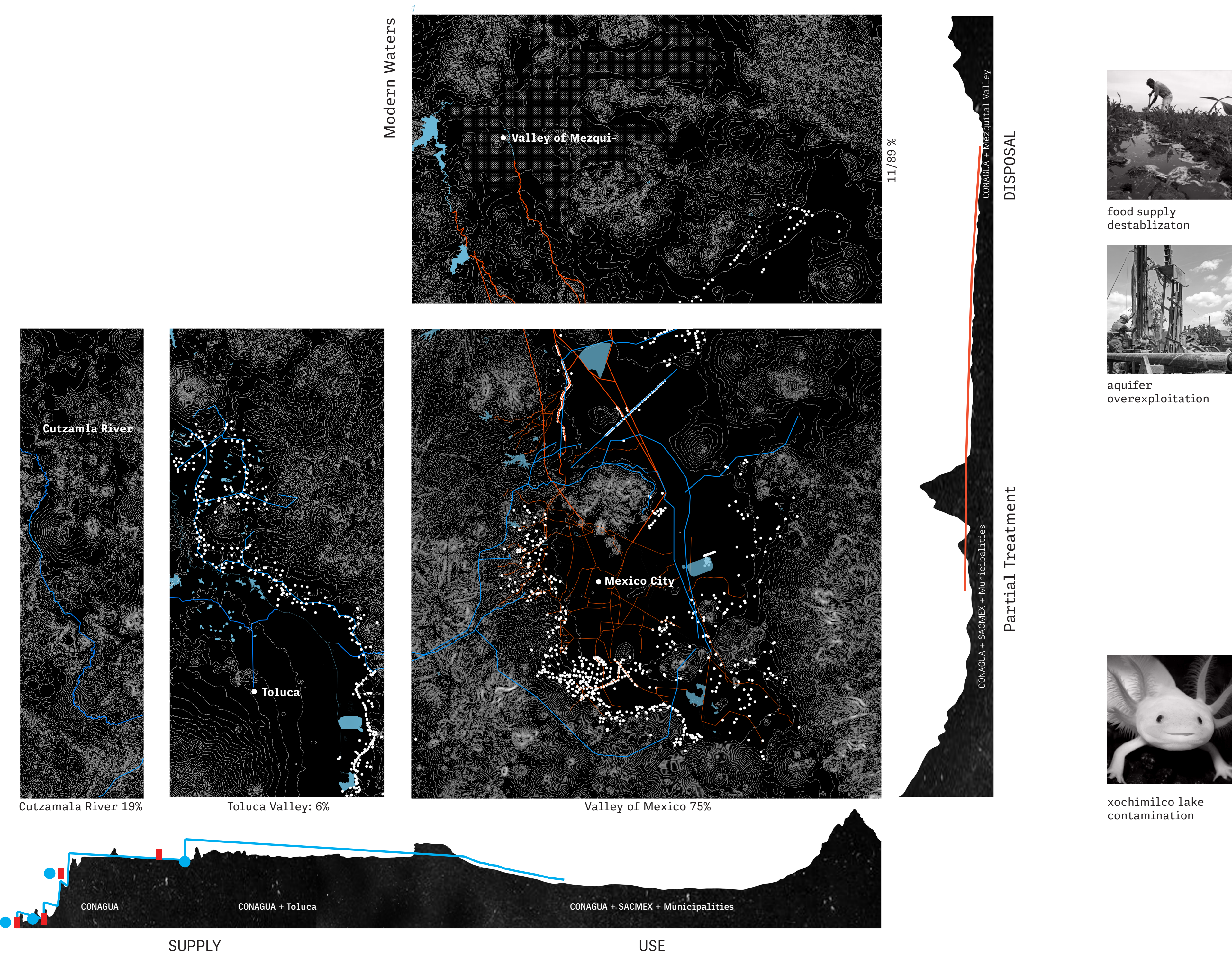
under state authority

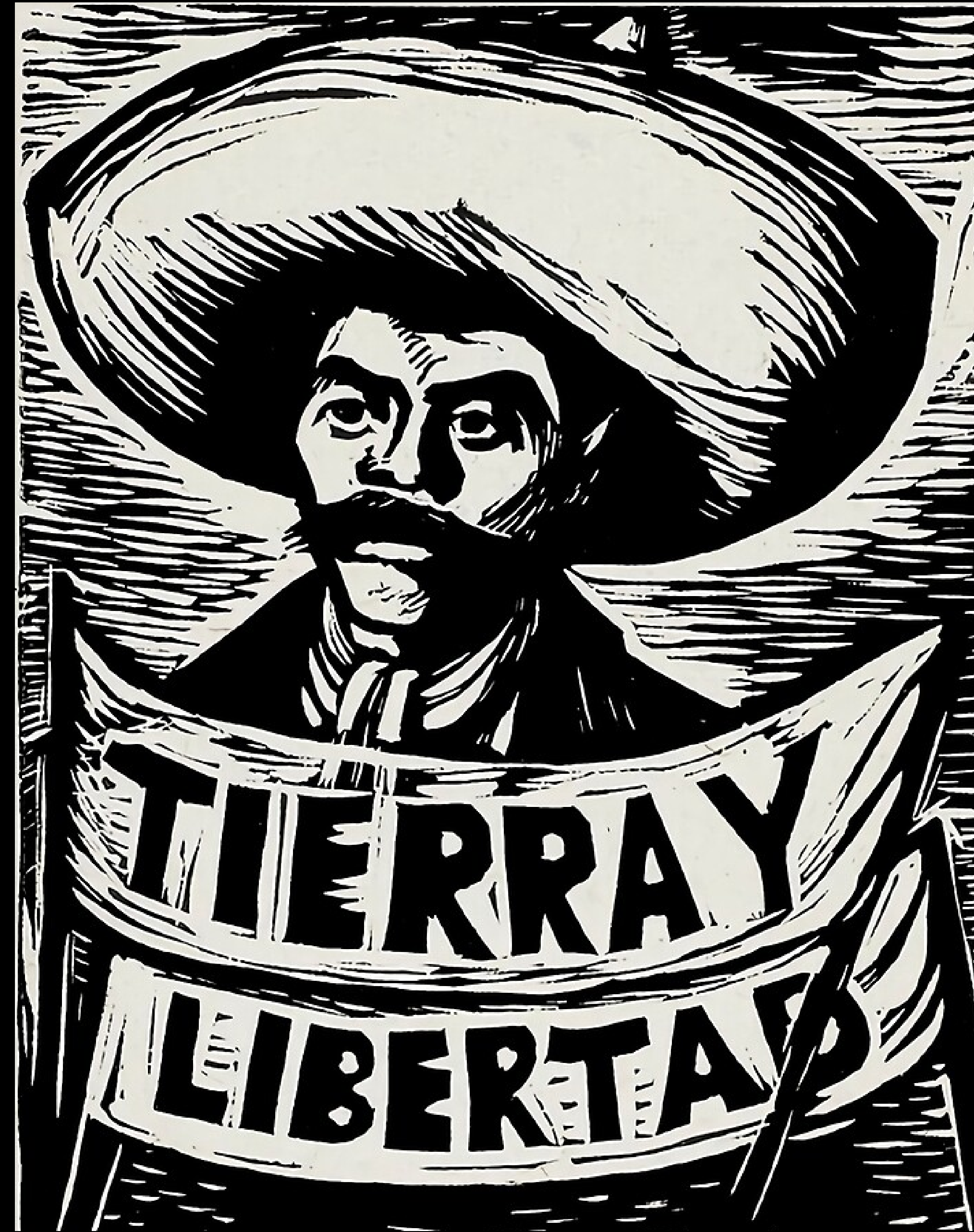




3D reconstruction of Tlatochtecatlan by Thomas Koltz • drone photography by Andres Semo







Ejidos –The Mexican Commons





EJIDAL COMMISSARY
manage actions
President
Secretary
Treasurer



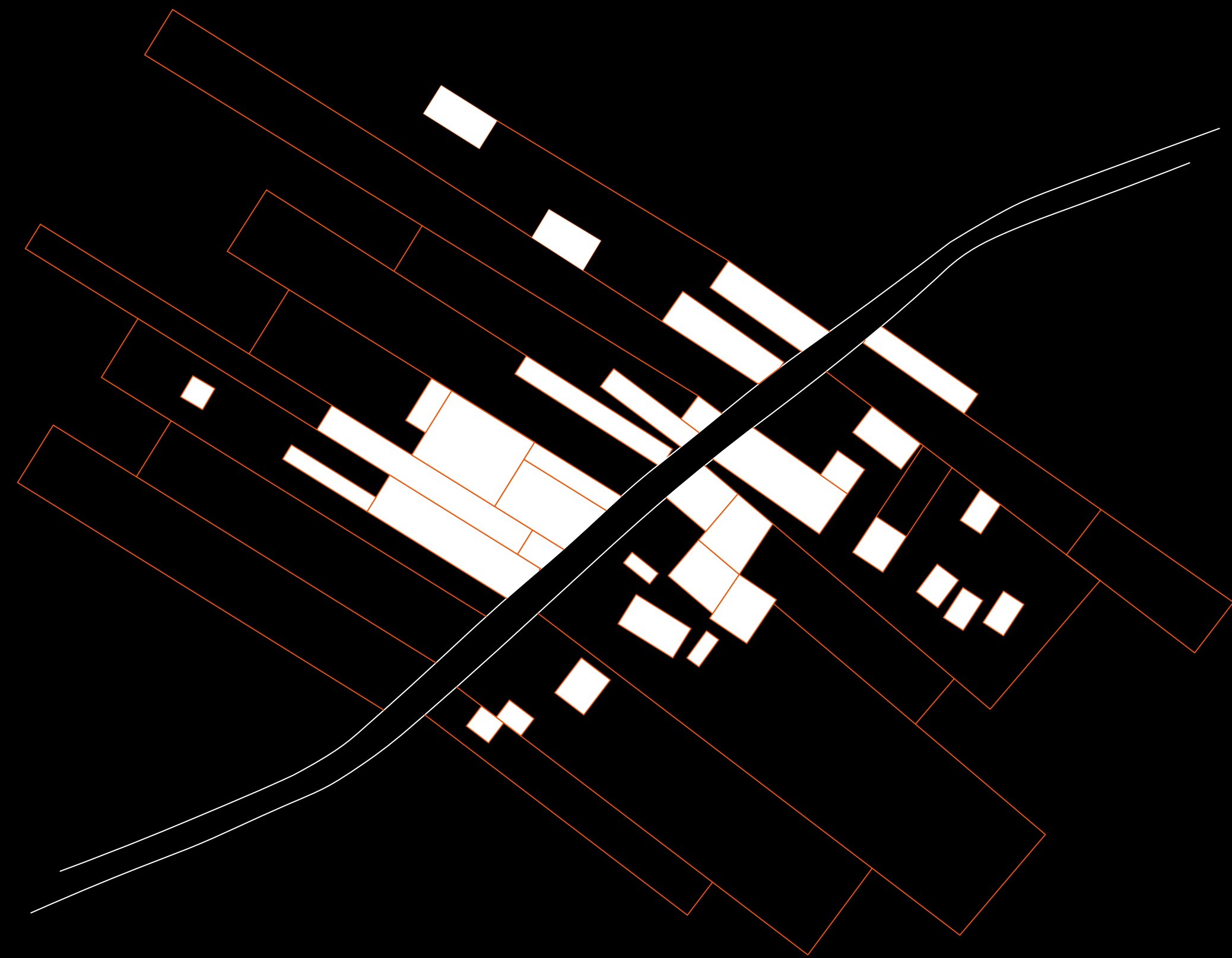
SURVEILLANCE COUNCIL
intervention in case
of misconduct



GENERALY ASSEMBLY
all ejido Members

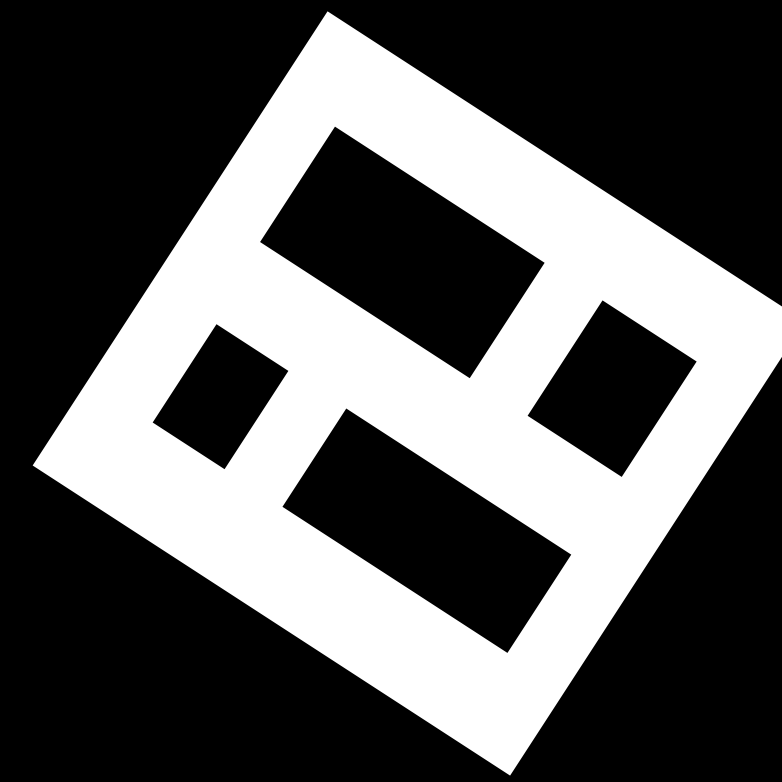
vote on collective
topics

INTERNAL CODE



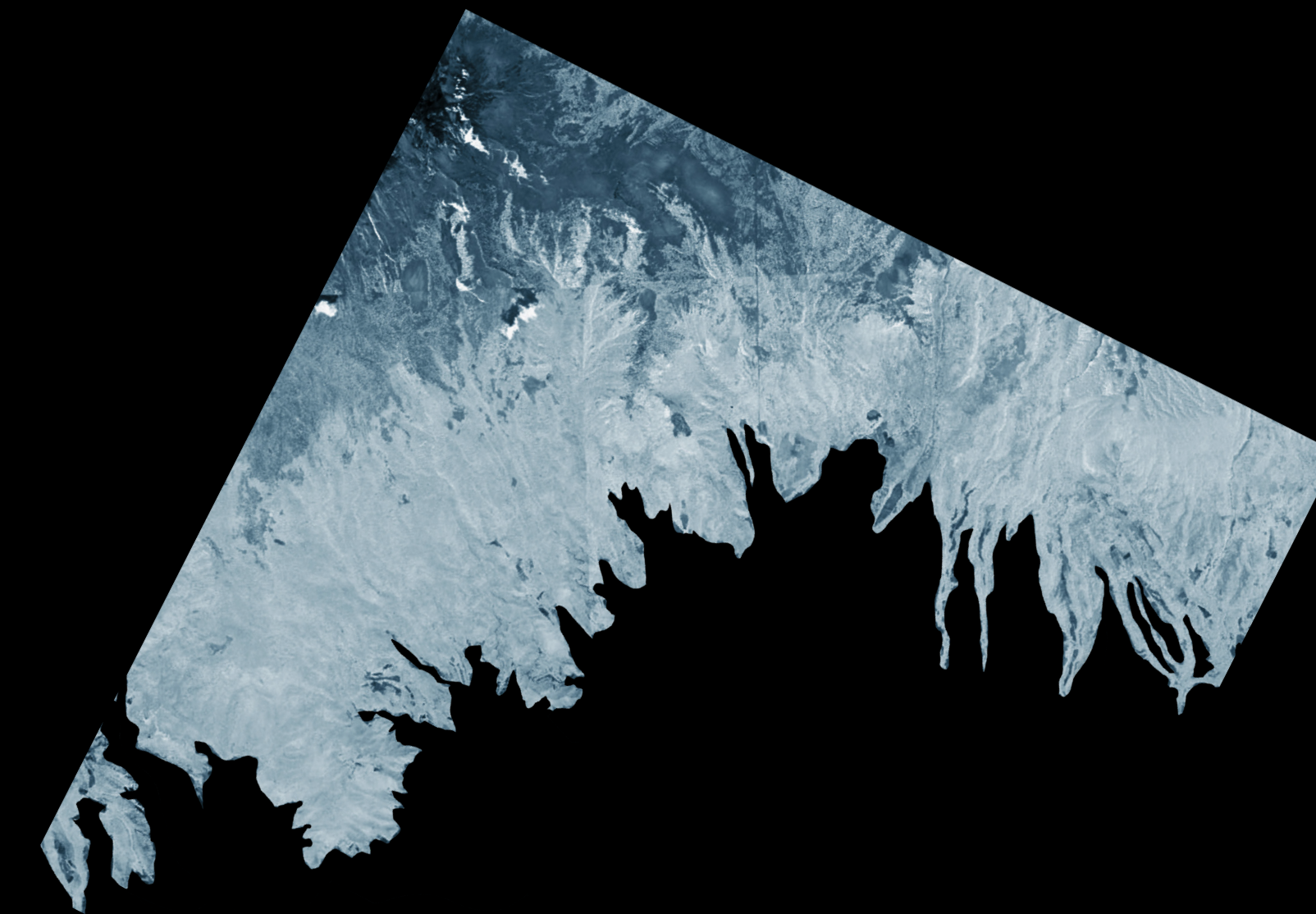
SOLARES

Urban Plots for housing
and subsistence farming



SOCIALES

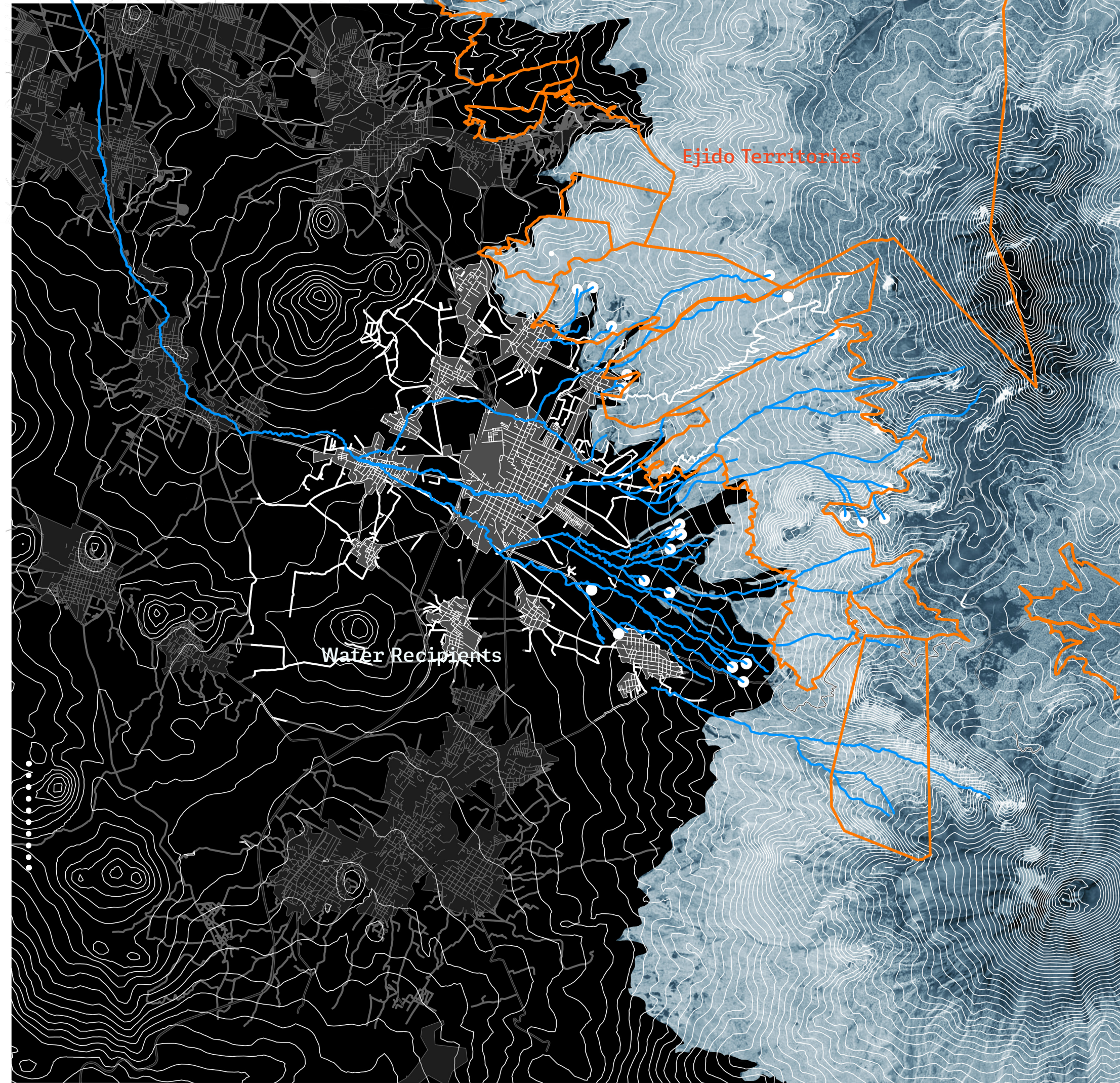
collective instutions



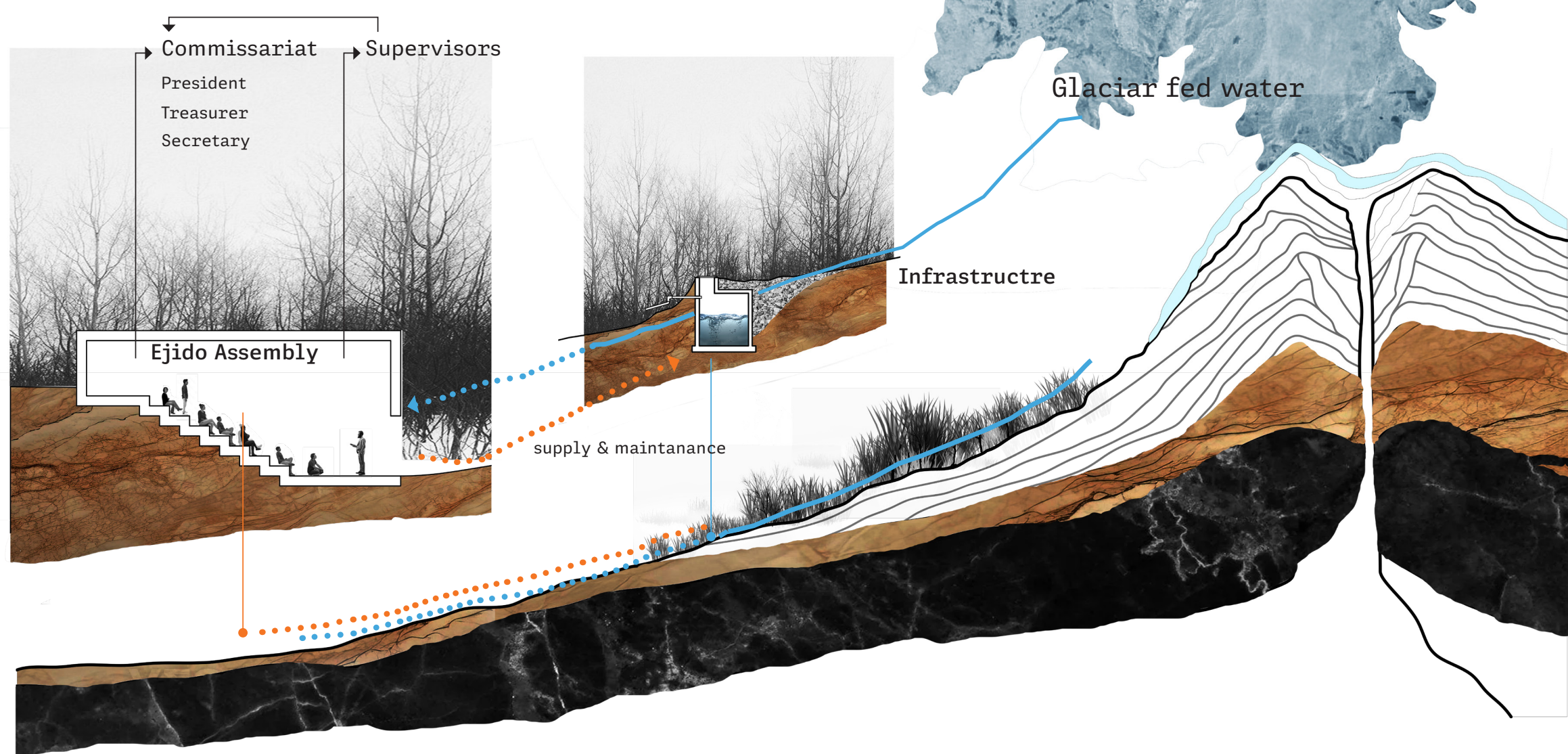
COMMUNALES

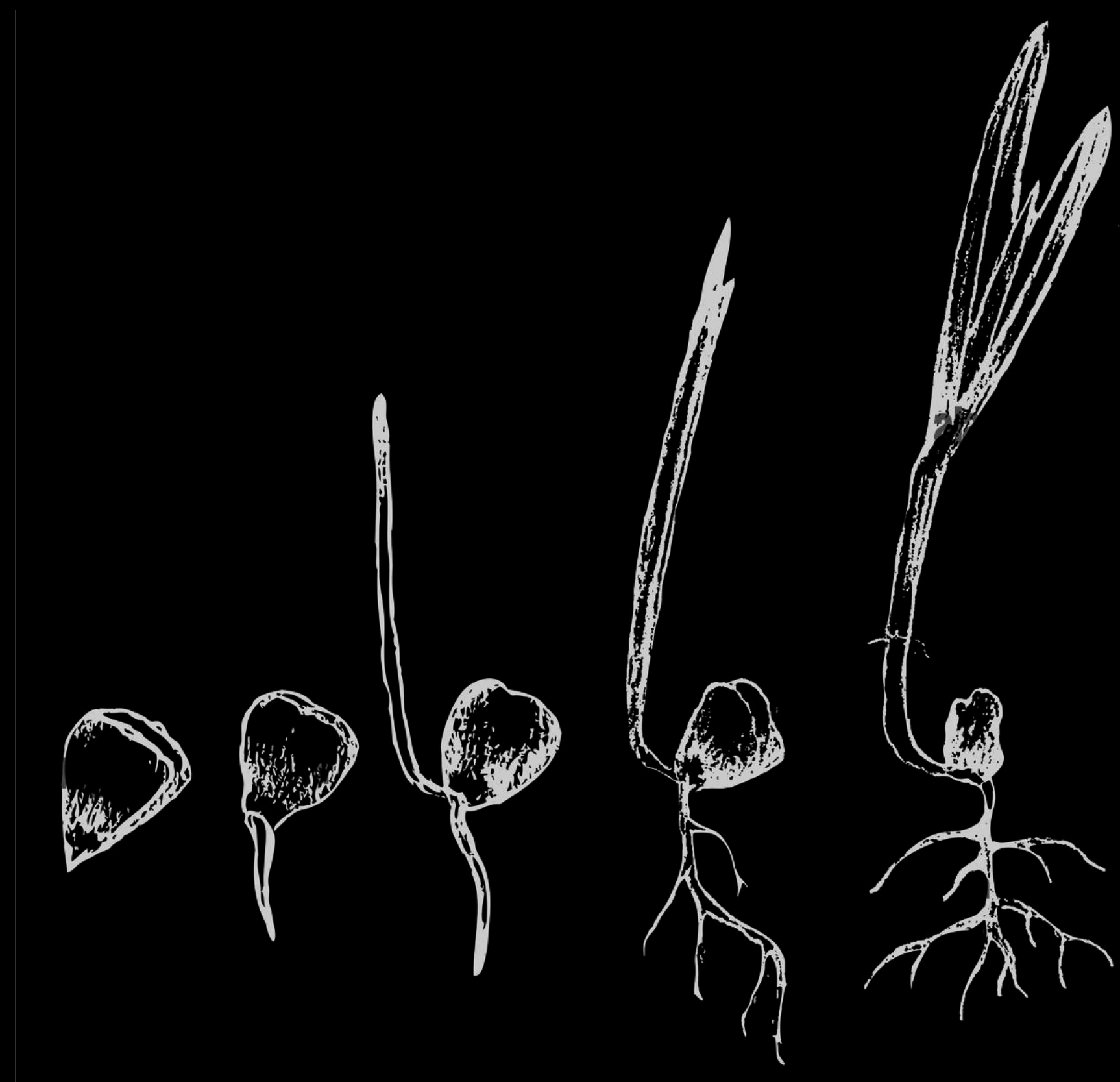
communally manages
lands

Ejido Water Territory



Hydro-Social Relations

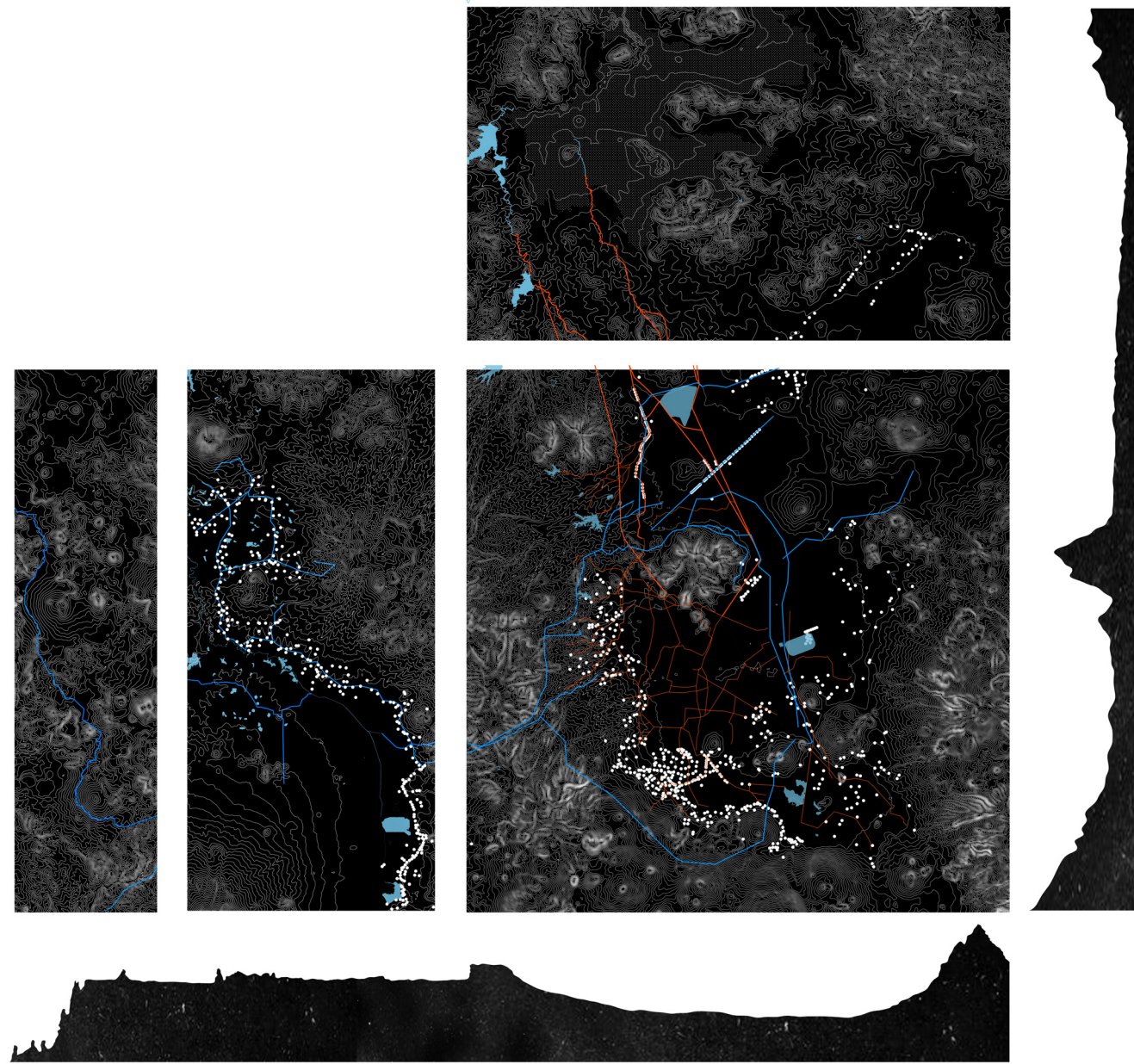




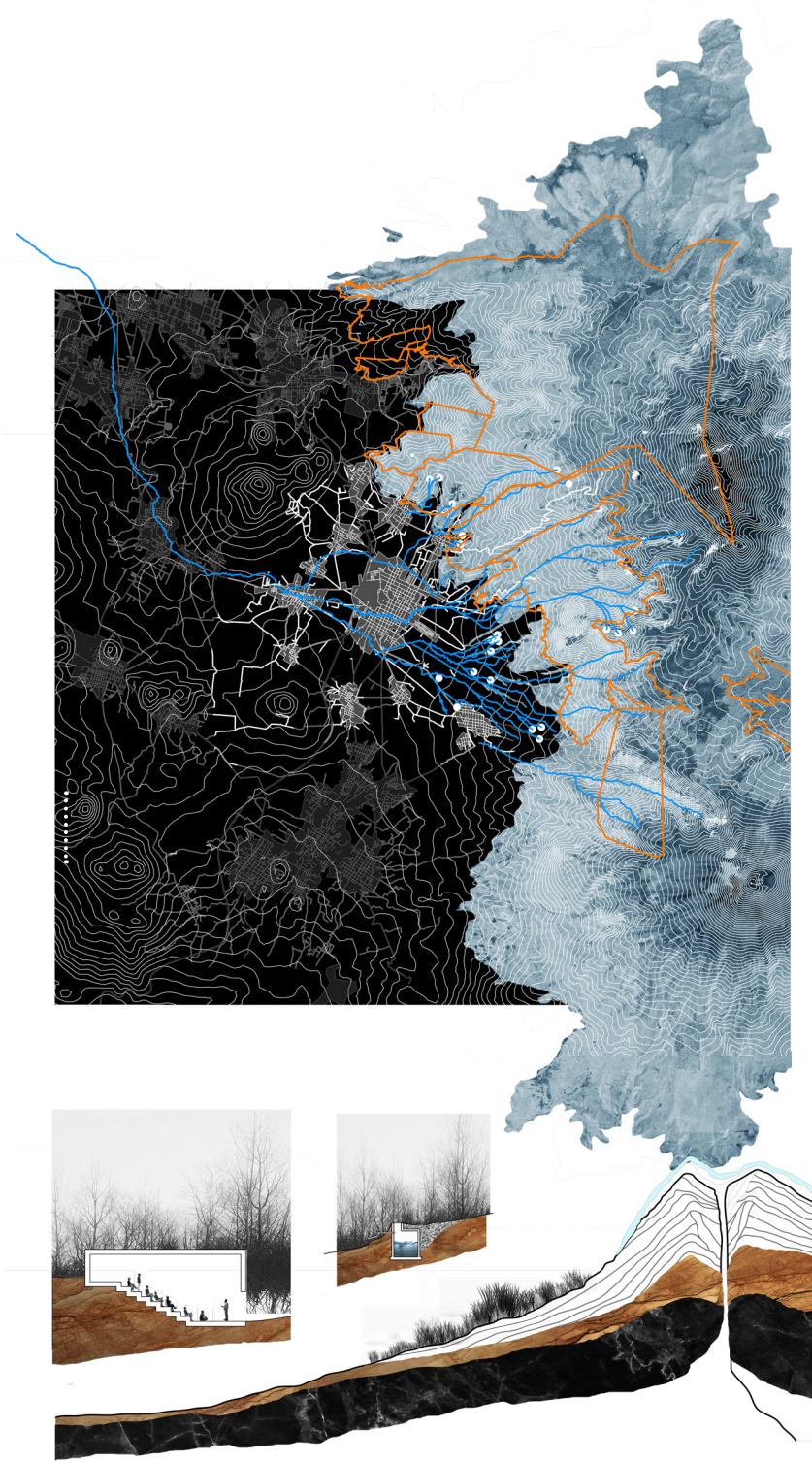
la semilla
(engl. seed) /si:d/

noun

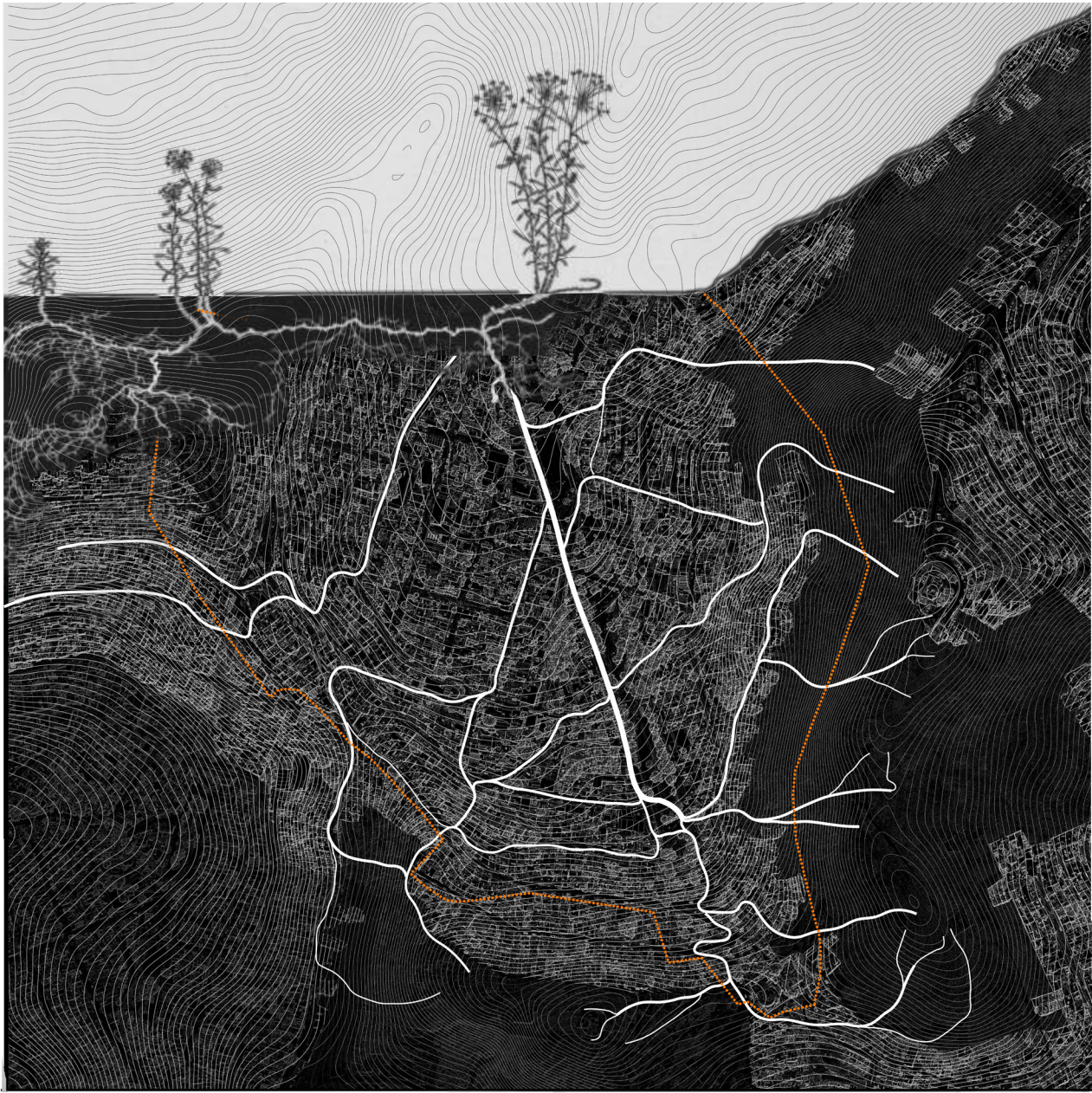
1. the unit of reproduction of a flowering plant, capable of developing into another such plant.
2. a source of development or growth



MODERN WATER



EJIDO WATER



POST-MODERN WATER

cultural

water invisibility



awareness



socially and spatially
visible water

political

top-down disenfranchisement



bottom-up democracy



bottom-up democracy

material

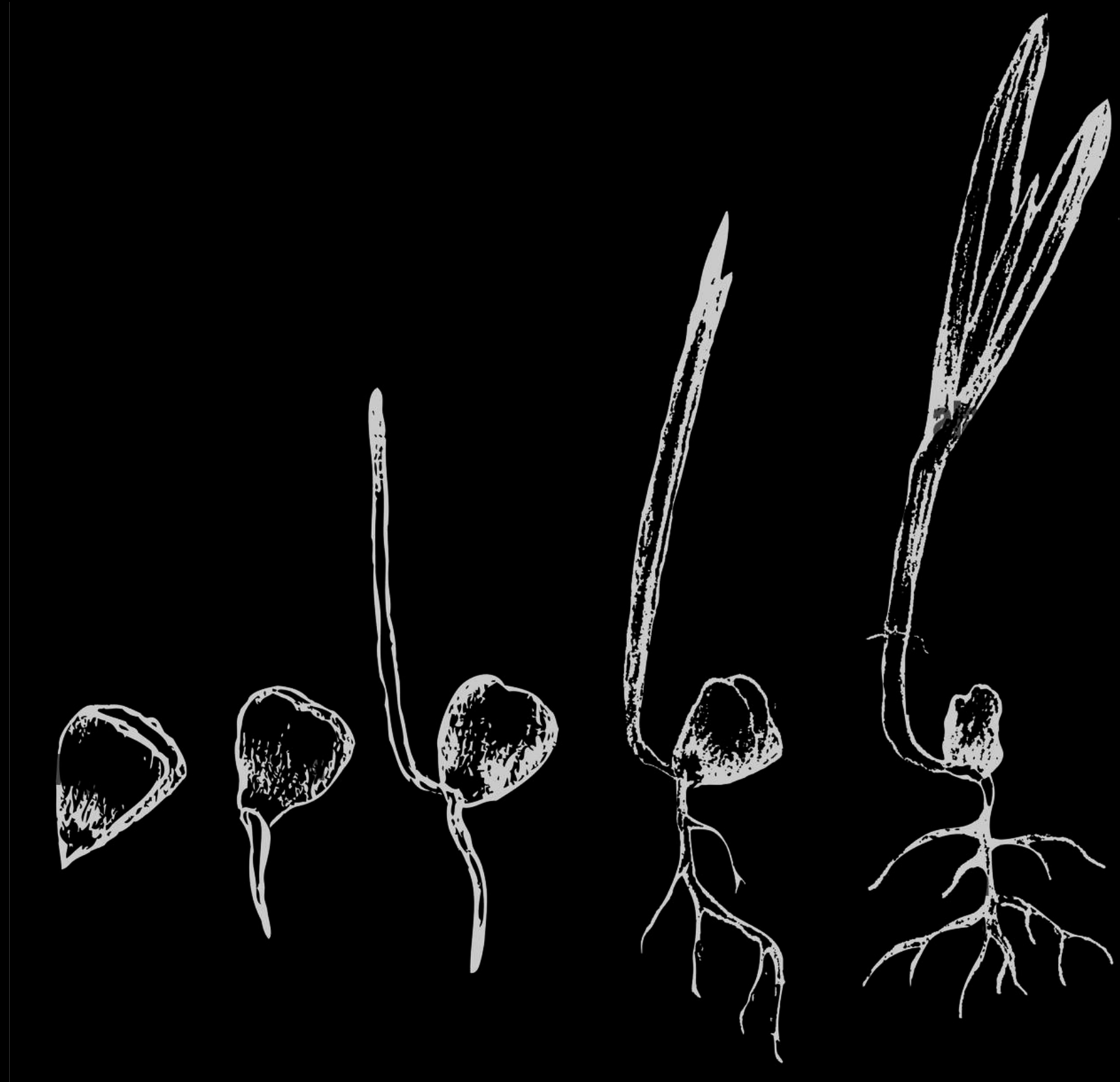
overexploitation of large
water sources



local water source



decentralized sources



la semilla
(engl. seed) /si:d/

translocating
the ejido system

Capturing
untapped water sources

Framing
water culturally